—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

विश्व बैंक की सहायता से सीसायुक्त पेट्रोल को सीसा-रहित पेट्रोल में बदलना

*155. **श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सीसायुक्त पेट्रोल को सीसा-रहित पेट्रोल में परिवर्तित करने के लिए विश्व बैंक ने भारत को सहायता देने का प्रस्ताव किया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) इस प्रस्ताव पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) वर्तमान में विश्व बैंक ने ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं किया है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

News-Item Captioned "US Wheat Growers team coming"

*156. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the report published in the Times of India of 24th April, 1997, by Shri Kingshuk Nag saying "US wheat growers team coming".

(b) whether the team had visited the country;

(c) it so, who were the members of the team and what was the objective of their visit; and

(d) what are the details of discussions, if any, held with the team and conclusions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news-item.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The team of US wheat experts consisted of representatives of Federal Grain Inspection Service, Grain and Feed Division of US Government, US Wheat Associates, representatives of two wheat exporting organisations viz., M/s. United Grain and M/s. Cargill. The objective of the Team was to review Indian production/import possibilities of foodgrains from US and to discuss Indian quality, health and phytosanitary requirements with reference to US Regulations on the subject. The Team held discussions in this regard with the officials of STC, FCI and representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Directorate of Plant Protection and Quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance. However, no specific trade/business negotiations were held.

LPG distributorship in Rural areas

*157 SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a massive demand for LPG cooking gas in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether any directions have been given by Government to the Oil Marketing companies to prepare plans to provide LPG distributorship to all villages in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what criterion is likely to be fixed for providing LPG distributorships in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There is a growing demand for LPG in the rural areas of the country.

(b) to (d) With a view to provide LPG connections in the rural areas by opening LPG distributorships in these areas, the Government has directed the Oil Companies to prepare LPG Marketing Plan

for 1996-98 by taking into account the following:

(i) to cover all urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) All urban locations having population of 5000 and above should be surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms. radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms. radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 (ten thousand) and above, to be surveyed for setting up rural distributorships and included in the plan depending upon the viability.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorships. While identifying rural locations contiguous to these towns, it should be ensured that adequate number of LPG distributorships exist in such towns so as to avoid marketing of LPG by rural distributorships in urban areas.

Hanglu Skins recovered in Srinagar

*158. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken against the owner of the processing unit at Nishat in Srinagar district from where about 17000 Hanglu skins were recovered recently;

(b) who is the owner of the unit; and

(c) in what manner Government are going to deal with the whole case?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir Government have reported that no such skins have been recovered from the processing unit at Nishat in Srinagar District.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Issue of Letter of Intent

*159. SHRI NAGMANI:
SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and particulars of the parties to whom letters of intent have been issued by the Ministry/Oil Selection Board in Delhi during the year 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(b) the details of those who have been permitted to operate dealership from private premises arranged by them; and

(c) how many out of them have commenced their dealership indicating the name of the firms and the premises from which they are operating?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Letters of Intent for allotment of dealerships/distributorships are not issued by the Government. This is done by the concerned oil companies. Oil marketing companies are reported to have issued Letters of Intent for 96 petrol/diesel retail outlets and 43 LPG distributorships in Delhi during 1994 to 1997.

(b) and (c) Out of the above, 8 retail outlet dealerships and 20 LPG distributorships have been commissioned. Whereas all the retail outlets are reported to have been commissioned on the land allotted by the Delhi Development Authority, 10 LPG distributorships have been commissioned on private land as under:

1. M/s Kaushik Gas Agency, Rohtak Road.
2. M/s Raghav Gas Service, Ashok Nagar.
3. M/s Bhagirathi Gas Service, Nehru Vihar.
4. M/s Nangloi Gas Service, Adhyapak Nagar.
5. M/s Jahangirpuri Gas Service, Jahangirpuri.